

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - January 23, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced today that a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego handed up a five-count indictment charging Richard Sills, Jr. with three counts of providing false information and hoaxes, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1038(a)(1), and two counts of making bomb threats by telephone, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(e). Both alleged crimes are felonies.

The indictment charges that Sills placed two telephone calls and sent a letter to the University of California, San Diego to warn of an apparent bomb attack on December 5, 2007. The indictment alleges that in one call, Sills stated, "You need to take this very seriously – there is a bomb in Leichtag." The indictment further alleges that in the second call, Sills stated "Take this very seriously, there is a bomb in the Leichtag Building, take this very seriously." Finally, the indictment charges that Sills sent a letter to the University of California, San Diego's Police Department that stated that remote-controlled explosive devices had been placed in six campus buildings and that the devices would be detonated unless animals from campus research facilities were released.

United States Attorney Hewitt praised the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the San Diego Police Department, and the UCSD Police Department for their coordinated effort to investigate this incident.

The defendant is next scheduled to be in court on January 24, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., before United States Magistrate Judge Louisa S. Porter for arraignment.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 08cr0213-LAB

Richard Sills

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

False Information and Hoaxes

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1038

Penalties: 5 years in custody; 3 years of supervised release, \$250,000 fine, \$100 Special Assessment

Bomb Threat by Telephone

Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(e)

Penalties: 10 years in custody; 3 years of supervised release, \$250,000 fine, \$100 Special Assessment

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Federal Bureau of Investigation

San Diego Police Department

University of California - San Diego Police Department

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendant committed the crime charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.